# ARTICLES TO BE ENQVIRED

of by the Churchwardens and Sworn-men, in the Trienniall visitation of the Right reuerend Father in God,

WALTER *Lord Bishop of Winton, within the Dioceſſe of Winchester,*

Anno 1636.

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## ¶ The tenor of the Oath of the Churchwardens and Swornemen.

*YOu shall sweare, that vpon due consideration of these Articles giuen you in charge, you shall present euery such person of or within your Parish, as you shall know to haue committed any offence, or omitted any duty mentioned in any of these Articles, or which are publikely defamed, or vehemently suspected of any such offence or negligence. So helpe you God by the contents of his holy Gospel.*

ARTI-

# Articles touching the Church.

WHether is your Church or Chappell, with the Chauncell thereof, and euery part of either of them, well and sufficiently repaired, the windowes well glased, the floores paued plaine and euen, without dust, or any thing noysome or vnseemely? A

2. Whether is your Churchyard well fenced with Walls, Railes, Pailes, as hath beene accustomed? if not, whose default is it? A

3. Whether hath there beene any fighting, chiding, brawling, or quarrelling, any playes, feasts, Tempozall Courts or Leets, Lay Iuries, Musters, or other prophane vsage in your Church or Churchyard: or haue any trees beene felled in your Churchyard, and by whom, or whether any person haue encroached vpon the ground of the Churchyard? 11

4. Whether is the mansion house of your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, with all the building thereunto belonging in due repaire, if there bee any decay of them, to what value as you are perswaded in your consciences? is your Parish Almes-house and Church-house sufficiently repaired, maintained, and to their right vses, that is to godly vses imployed? A

5. Whether haue you in your Church the Bible in the largest volume, the Booke of Common prayer lately authorized by his Maiestie, the Bookes of Homilies allowed, the two Psalters, a conuenient Pulpit for the preaching, a decent seat for the Minister to say Seruice in conueniently placed, a strong chest with an hole in the lidde, and three lockes and keyes, one for the Minister, the other for the Churchwardens, for the Almes of the poore, and the keeping of the Register Booke of the Christenings, Marriages and Burials? A

6. Whether haue you in your Church a Font of stone for Baptisme,

set in the ancient vsuall place, a decent Table for the Communion conueniently placed, couered with silke or other decent stuffe in time of diuine Seruice, and with a faire linnen cloth ouer that at the Administration of the Communion?

7. Whether haue you all such Bells, ornaments, and other vtensils as haue anciently belonged to your Church, a Communion cup of siluer with a couer; a faire standing pot or stoope of siluer or pewter for the Wine vpon the Communion table, a pulpit cloth, cushion, a comely surplesse with large sleeues, a Register booke of parchment for Christenings, Mariages and Burials; a booke for the names of all strange Preachers, subscribed with their names, and the name of the Bishop or others by whom they had Licence?

8. Whether is your almes for your poore (quarterly at the least) distributed by you the Churchwardens and the Minister in the presence of sixe of the chiefe parishioners to your poore? And are weekely the names and surnames of all persons Married, Christened and buried, and of their Parents, with the day and yeere, entred in your said parchment booke, and euery leafe being full, subscribed by you the Minister and Churchwardens?

9. Whether are all your seats in your Church in good repaire, cleanly kept, conueniently placed, and the Parishioners in them, or elsewhere orderly set; and whether is there any contention or striuing for any seate or place among them?

10. Whether is your Church and Chauncell paued, or decently floored as befitteth Gods house?

11. Whether are there any Seates in the Church newly erected, or Tombes in Church or Churchyard, or any alterations of Seats, Windowes, Pillars, Lofts, or other things in the Church, without especiall order from the Bishop.

## *Touching the Ministery, Seruice and Sacraments.*

WHether is the Common Prayer said or sung by your Minister both Morning and euening distinctly and reuerently, euery Sunday and holy-day and on their Eues, and at conuenient and vsuall times of those dayes, and in most conuenient place of the Church for the edifying of the people?

2. Whether doeth your Minister obserue the Orders, rites and ceremonies prescribed in the Booke of Common Prayer, in reading the holy Scriptures, Prayers, and administration of the Sacraments, without diminishing

minishing (in regard of Preaching or any other respect) or adding anything in the matter or forme thereof?

3. Whether doth your Minister on Wednesdayes and Fridayes, (not being holy dayes,) at the accustomed houres of Service resort to the Church, and say the Letany prescribed, and doth your Clerke or Sexton give warning before by tolling of a Bell on those dayes?

4 Whether doeth your Minister as oft as he administreth the Communion, first receive it himselfe? Whether doeth he use any Bread or Wine newly brought, before the words of Institution be rehearsed, and the Bread and Wine present on the Table, whether doeth hee deliver the Bread and Wine to every Communicant severally?

5. Whether doeth your Minister give warning publikely in the Church at Morning Prayer the Sunday before he administreth the Communion for the better preparation of the Parishioners?

6. Whether hath your Minister admitted to the Communion any notorious sinner openly knowne or defamed, or any who hath openly and maliciously contended with his Neighbour, before repentance and reconciliation made and done by appointment of the Ordinary?

7. Whether hath your Minister admitted to the Communion any Church-warden or Side-man, who hath wittingly and willingly neglected, contrary to his oath, to present any publike offence or scandall, being mooved to present either by some of his neighbours, the Minister, or his Ordinarie?

8. Whether hath your Minister administred the Communion to any but such as kneele, or doe any refuse to kneele? hath he administred to any who refuseth to be present at Publike prayer? or is there any who hath depraved the Booke of Common Prayer, administration of the Sacraments, or the Rites and Ceremonies prescribed, or the Articles of Religion agreed upon, or the Booke of ordering Priests and Bishops, or spoken against his Maiesties Supremacie, or have any bene for these causes repelled, and what be their names?

9. Whether hath your Minister more Benefices then one? if he have, how farre distant are they, how often is he absent in the yeere, when he is absent, hath he an allowed Preacher for his Curate?

10 Whether is your Minister an allowed Preacher by the Lord Arch-bishop or the Bishop of the Diocese? if he be, doth he preach (as he ought) usually in his owne parish, or in some other, where no preacher is?

11 Whether doth your Minister being no Preacher allowed, presume to expound the Scripture in his owne Cure, or else where? doeth he pro-

cure every moneth a Sermon to be preached in his cure by Preachers lawfully licenced, and on every Sunday when there is no Sermon, doeth he or his Curate read some one of the Homilies prescribed?

12 Whether is your Curate allowed by the Bishop, under his hand and Seale, to serve for your cure, and whether doth he serve two Churches or Chappels in one day?

13 Whether doeth your Minister in saying the publike Prayers, and administring the Sacraments, weare a decent surplesse with sleeves, and being a graduate, doeth he weare therewith a Hood, by the order of the Universities, agreeable to his degree?

14 Whether hath your Minister or any other Preacher in your Church, preached any thing to confute and impugne any Doctrine delivered by any other Preacher, and hath he and they used the Prayer for Christs Catholike Church, &c. as is prescribed by the Canon?

15 Whether hath or doeth any preach in your Church, which refuseth to conforme himselfe to the Lawes, Rites, and ordinances established, or which hath not first shewed a sufficient Licence?

16 Whether doeth your Minister in his Sermons, foure times in the yeere at the least, teach and declare the Kings Maiesties power within his Realmes to be the highest power under God, to whom, all within the same owe most loyaltie and obedience, and that all forraine power is iustly taken away?

17 Whether doeth your Minister every Sunday and Holy-day, halfe an houre before Evening prayer or more, examine and instruct the youth in the ten Commandements, the Beleefe, the Lords Prayer, and the Catechisme set foorth in the Booke of Common Prayer?

18 Whether hath your Minister married any which have not been three severall Sundayes or Holidayes asked in your Church in the time of Divine Service (without Licence) and hath he, either with Licence or without married any, whereof neither dwelt in your Parish, or with any licence but onely from the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of the Diocesse, or his Chancellour?

19 Whether hath your Minister either with Licence or without, married any at any other times then between the houres of Eight and Twelve in the forenoone, or in any private house, or before their Parents and Governours (the parties being under the age of xxi. yeeres) have testified their consents?

20 Whether doeth your Minister declare to the people every Sunday at the time appointed, what Holidayes and fasting-dayes be the weeke following

lowing? doeth hee being a Preacher, conferre with all Recusants and persons Excommunicate or suspended: being no preacher, doeth hee procure a sufficient Preacher to reclaime them thereby?

21. Whether doth your Minister keepe a Note of all persons Excommunicate, and once euery sixe moneths doth he denounce them which haue not obtained their absolution, on some Sunday in seruice time, that others may be admonished to refraine their company?

22. Whether doeth your Minister hauing notice giuen him, diligently visit the sicke (the disease not being infectious) doeth he instruct and comfort them, doeth hee then moue them to make their Testaments, and remember the poore, and other workes of charitie?

23. Whether hath your Minister refused to baptize any childe brought to the Church vpon any Sunday or Holiday, or to bury any corps brought into the Church or Churchyard, or to Church any women hauing had conuenient warning thereof?

24. Whether hath your Minister, being truely enformed of the danger of death of any infant vnbaptized, and being desired to goe to the place where the childe is, to baptize it, neglected to goe, by meanes whereof the childe died vnbaptized?

25. Whether doeth your Minister at any time preach or administer the Communion in any priuate house, except when any are so impotent that they cannot go to Church, or very dangerously sicke?

26. Whether hath your Minister holde or appointed any publike fast, or beene present at any? doeth hee or any other in your Parish holde any lecture or exercise, without the licence of the Bishop vnder his hand and seale.

27. Whether hath there beene any secret conuenticles or meetings in your parish by any Priest, Ministers, or others, tending to the deprauing of the forme of Prayer, doctrine, or gouernment of the Church?

28. Whether doeth your Minister in his iourney, weare a cloake with sleeues called a Priests cloake?

29. Whether doeth your Minister resort to any Tauernes or Ale-houses, or doth hee hoord or lodge in any such place? doeth hee vse any base or seruile labour, drinking, riot, dice, cards, tables, or any other vnlawfull games? Is hee contentious, a hunter, hawker, swearer, dauncer, suspected of incontinencie, or hath giuen any euill example of life?

30. Whether is there in your parish any Minister or Deacon, who hath forsaken his calling, vsing himselfe in his course of life as a Gentleman or other Lay man?

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31. Whether is there any that vseth not due and lowly obeysance at the blessed name of Iesus when it is read in the Gospel?

32 Whether is your Minister continually residens upon his Benefice? how long time hath he been absent? whether hath hee licence or dispensation from the Arch Bishop, or Bishop, or otherwise according to the Lawes of this Realme, or in case he hath, whether he doeth supply his absence by a sufficient licenced Curate?

33 Whether his Maiesties instructions hee punctually obserued? expresse in particular.

## *Touching Schoole-masters.*

WHether haue you in your parish any Schoolemaster, who teacheth either in publike Schoole, or priuate house? is hee of sound Religion, or doeth hee giue any euill example of life? is he allowed by the Bishop? or doeth your Minister or Curate teach? and is he allowed in like manner?

2 Whether doeth your Minister or Schoolemaster, who teacheth, teach the Catechisme by authoritie set foorth?

## *Touching the Parish Clerke and Sexton*

WHether haue you a Parish Clerke sufficient for his place, of the age of xx. yeeres at the least? is he of honest conuersation, can he reade, write, and sing, is hee diligent in his office, and seruiceable to his Minister, and not giuen to ouermuch drinke, or any other vice?

2 Whether doeth your Clerke meddle with any thing aboue his Office, as churching of women, burying of the dead, reading of Prayers, or such like?

3 Whether doth your Clerke or Sexton, keepe your Church cleane, the doores safe locked, and the Churchyard free from hogs or other vnclean beasts, or pollution, is any thing by his default lost or spoiled in the Church, doeth he suffer vnseasonable ringing, or any prophane exercise in your Church?

4 Whether doeth your Clerke or Sexton, when one is passing out of this life, neglect to toll a Bell hauing notice thereof?

5 Whether doeth any of your parish refuse to pay vnto the parish Clearke or Sexton such wages as are vnto them due, and haue been accustomably payed?

*Touching*

# ARTICLES.

## *Touching Parishioners.*

WHether hath any in your Parish spoken against, or any way impugned the Kings Maiesties Supremacie in causes Ecclesiasticall, the Trueth and Doctrine of the Church of England, the forme of Gods worship contained in the Booke of Common Prayer, and administration of the Sacraments?

2 Whether hath any in your parish spoken against or impugned the Articles of Religion agreed vpon, the Rites, and Ceremonies established in the Church, the gouernment by Archbishops, Bishops, Deanes, Archdeacons, and others, that beare office in the same?

3 Whether any haue in your parish spoken against or impugned the forme of making and consecrating Bishops, Priests, or Deacons, or haue any separated themselues from the societie of the Congregation, and combined in a new Brotherhood, or depraued the Synod lately held by the Kings authoritie?

4 Whether doth any in your parish prophane, violate or mis-spend the Lords day, or holy day, or any part of them, vsing any offensiue conuersation, or worldly labour in those dayes, or any of them?

5 Whether hath any in your parish in the time of Diuine Seruice couered his head (albeit he hath no infirmitie, in which case a cap or night-coife is allowed) or is there any who hath not reuerently kneeled when the generall confession, Letanie, and other prayers are read, and which haue not stood vp at the saying of the Beliefe?

6 Whether hath any in your parish disturbed the Seruice or Sermon by walking, talking, or any other way, or departed out of the Church during the Seruice or Sermon without some vrgent cause, or loytered about the Church or Church-porch?

7 Whether doe all parishioners receiue the holy Communion thrice euery yeere at the least, whereof the feast of Easter to be one, and haue all being of the age of xviii. yeeres duely receiued, or not?

8 Whether hath any parent been vrged to be present, or admitted to answer as Godfather for his own childe, or hath any Godfather or Godmother made any other answere or speech then is prescribed by the Booke, or haue any been admitted for such a Baptisme, who haue not first receiued the Communion?

9 Whether doe all Fathers, Mothers, Masters, Mistresses come, and cause their children, seruants and Apprentices to come duly to the Church,

and according to the Ministers direction to be instructed and catechized, or who be they that haue not obeyed the Minister herein?

10 Whether haue any persons married together within the degrees of Consanguinitie or Affinitie prohibited, set forth in a Table, appointed to be placed in euery Church?

11 Whether haue any persons, once lawfully married, forsaken each other, or doe liue asunder without the authoritie of the Ordinary, or doe any being diuorced or separated, marrie againe, the former wife or husband yet liuing?

12 Whether haue any been maried in the times wherein marriage is by law restrained, without lawfull licence, viz. from the Saturday next before Aduent Sunday, vntil the fourteenth of January: and from the Saturday next before Septuagesima Sunday, vntill the Munday next after Low Sunday: and from the Sunday next before the Rogation weeke, vntill Trinitie Sunday?

13 Whether hath any of your Parish vnreuerently vsed your Minister, or haue any laid violent hands vpon him, or disgraced his office and calling, by word or deede?

14 Whether you haue in your parish, any dweller or soiourner, a maintainer of Popish Doctrine, or suspected to keepe Schismaticall bookes, or to frequent or fauour any heresie or errour?

15 Whether haue you any common resorters to your Church, which are not of your parish, or doe any such receiue the Communion amongst you: what be their names, and of what parishes are they? Or whether do any of your parish resort vnto other parishes to heare Service or Sermons, especially in contempt of their owne Minister?

16 Whether haue any in the time of Seruice opened their shops, exercised their trade, vsed any gaming, beene in any Taucrne, or Alehouse, or otherwise ill imployed?

17 Whether are there in your parish any Adulterers, Fornicators, incestuous persons, any that haue attempted and sollicited the chastity of any woman, Bawdes, receiuers, close fauourers, conueyers away, or which suffer to depart any incontinent person vnpunished, any blasphemers, common swearers, drunkards, ribauds, vsurers, malicious slanderers, scolds, or sowers of discord, or any defamed of the said crimes?

18 Whether doe any in your parish administer the goods of the dead without authority, or suppresse their Will or testament? haue any executors neglected to performe their Wills, especially in paying of Legacies giuen to the Church, to the poore, or to any other charitable, or godly vses?

19 Whether

19 Whether doe any refuse to pay to the reparations, ornaments, and other things required in your Church, as they are sessed by a lawful Vestry, or any other dwelling out of your Parish, which hold land in your parish?

20 Whether hath any person suspended or excommunicated, been suffered to heare Diuine Seruice, or the Sermon, to receiue the Sacraments, to be married or churched, or haue any excommunicate been buried in Christian buriall?

21 Whether haue any in your parish been christened, churched, buried, or receiued the Communion, or been married out of your Church, (both parties dwelling in your Parish?)

22 Whether haue all women in your parish deliuered of childe, come at conuenient time after to Church to giue thankes, and haue they beene churched according to the forme of the Booke of Common Prayer?

23 Whether hath the perambulation of the circuit of your parish beene obserued once euery yeere, if not, whose default is it?

24 Whether there be any thing which was formerly presented in your parish, and not yet reformed, and publickly punished?

25 Whether haue any in your parish giuen the Churchwardens, or Sidemen, or any of them euill words for doing their duety, according to their oath and conscience in making presentment for any fault?

## *Touching Churchwardens and Swornemen.*

WHether do any in your parish take upon them to be Churchwarden or Side-man, which are not lawfully chosen by the Minister and parishioners according to the Canon, or doe any continue that office longer then one yeere, except they be chosen againe, and are all such Officers chosen yeerely in Easter weeke?

2 Whether doe your Churchwardens within one moneth at the most after their yeere ended, before the Minister and Parishioners giue vp a iust account of all such money, and other things, as they haue receiued and bestowed, haue they deliuered all remaining in their hands belonging to their Church or Parish, by bill intended, to the next Churchwardens?

3 Whether haue the Churchwardens with the aduice of the Minister, from time to time prouided a sufficient quantity of fine white bread and wholesome wine for the number of Communicants?

4 Whether doe the Churchwardens and Swornemen, before euery Visitation, and at other times when there is iust occasion, meete & conferre about their presentments, and the answering of these Articles, & who hath

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(after notice giuen him of the time and place) carelesly absented himselfe?

5 Whether the forfeiture of twelue pence for absence from Church, appointed by Statute for the vse of the poore, be taken and leuied by the Churchwardens, and employed according to the said Statute: & whether is the same forfeiture taken of all persons which stand wilfully suspended or excommunicated?

6 Whether haue any Churchwardens sold, sold or detained any goods, ornaments, Bels, Rents, or implements of the Church?

7 Whether doe the Churchwardens and Sidemen about the midst of Diuine Seruice, vsually walke out of the Church, and see who are abroad in any Alehouse, or else where absent, or euill employed, and whether haue they presented all such to the Ordinary?

8 Whether doe you know, or haue heard a fame of any offence committed, or duety omitted by any of your Parish before your time, and heretofore not presented to the Ordinary, or as yet not reformed, and whether haue you presented the same?

9 Whether any doe molest or trouble you for doing your duyes?

10 Finally, doe you know of any matter or cause which is a breach of the lawes Ecclesiasticall here not expressed: you shall by vertue of your oath duely present it, and all breaches of all and singuler these articles, expressely and particularly, the full trueth of your knowledge, or what by common Fame you haue heard therein, when and as often as occasion is offered, that Reformation may be made accordingly, wherein your Minister may and ought to ioyne with you for your better direction.

FINIS.

Sept: 26